

U.N. seeks to revive Gulf talks

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Iraq have sent their foreign ministers to New York to resume post-war diplomatic contacts that have so far produced only shadowy meetings. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the chief mediator, is expected to get Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's Tareq Aziz together in the early part of next month. He will try again for a breakthrough to each other. He will try again for a breakthrough, hoping that a stalemate last month by his special envoys, Ian Kinnear, may have laid the basis for a breakthrough. The Baghdad and Tehran fronts still bitterly at odds over basic issues including ownership of the Shatt Al Arab, the river that forms the southern section of their border. The Gulf was last visited by a U.N.-backed ceasefire in August 1988 after nearly eight years of fighting in which, according to Western estimates, more than a million soldiers and civilians died. Peace talks promptly stalled. Tehran wants Iraqi troops withdrawn from an estimated 2,600 square kilometres of border territory they still hold.

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Badran reaffirms moves towards securing public freedoms

Seized passports to be returned; ban on travel, work to be lifted

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Minister Badran reaffirmed Sunday the government's intentions to take concrete steps towards securing public freedoms as well as freedoms to travel and work for all Jordanian citizens regardless of their political affiliations.

The premier also said the issue of martial law needs a very thorough study of its implications and its positive/negative aspects.

"I wish I could cancel the martial law, but this issue has to be studied thoroughly and I want all you parliamentarians to share this study with me," Badran told the Lower House of Parliament, which met in regular session.

Badran stressed that the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to return all confiscated passports to their holders and release political detainees have been carried by the government.

"We have already released 48 political detainees. But I want to point out that political detainees are different from convicted political prisoners because the latter need a special royal pardon," Badran told Lower House representatives who pressed the issue

of public freedoms during the four-hour session.

The premier added that a "special committee to study the situation of convicted prisoners has already been established, and this committee has not yet finished its study."

But the prime minister said the government would grant further amnesties to political prisoners as soon as the committee finishes a review of sentences passed on political activists.

Several deputies pressured Badran on the exact number of confiscated passports and the provisions which the government will make to ensure these detainees are granted their right to return to their work and maintain their livelihood. Badran quoted an old Arab saying: "They ask when did we get to the palace, we say yesterday

House panels elect heads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's legal, financial, administrative and foreign affairs committees held separate meetings Sunday and elected their chairmen and rapporteurs.

Abdullah Nasur was elected chairman and Abdullah Al Akaileh rapporteur of the Financial Committee; Hussein Mijalli became chairman and Dr. Mohammad Abu Farez rapporteur for the Legal Committee; Jamal Al Kheirah was elected chairman and Laith Shbeihat rapporteur of the Administrative Committee; and Taher Al Masri became chairman and Husni Shiyab rapporteur for the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Hrawi assails Aoun but vows to seek Syrian pullout

BIRJUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi said in an interview published Sunday that rebellious Christian leader Michel Aoun was "an outlaw leading a mutiny that will only result in the final partition of Lebanon."

He also told the conservative Al Diyar newspaper that he plans to invite all militia leaders to join his national reconciliation government, formed under an October peace accord brokered by the Arab League to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

But Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic elected Nov. 24, stressed the militia chieftains must first abandon their private armies within six months, "otherwise they will be hit."

He did not elaborate. The Lebanese army is splintered, with 20,000 men supporting Aoun and 22,000 Muslim units backing Hrawi.

But these units are poorly equipped and without Syrian military support would be hard

pressed to take on the Muslim and leftist militias.

Hrawi, 64, proposed a summit conference with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Lebanon's key power broker, "to begin discussing security roles and the withdrawal" of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

That appeared aimed at placating the defiant Aoun. He has demanded a complete withdrawal by the Syrians.

Hrawi declared: "I pledge to all the Lebanese that the Syrian forces will evacuate every part of Lebanon when the security needs for their presence cease to exist."

Meanwhile Arab peacemakers held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday before flying to Paris to pursue their quest for lasting peace in Lebanon.

No details of the talks were revealed.

Prince Levent told reporters he left Damascus the day the Arab Peace team wanted to remove any obstacles to the peace plan under which Hrawi was elected and help his government consolidate its authority.

The Arab League peace committee was set up in May to seek an end to the Lebanese civil war.

In the committee brokered a ceasefire in late September which ended months of artillery battles between Aoun's forces and Syrian troops backed by their militia allies in which 850 people were killed.

Czechs dump Communists; reform calls sweep East

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Czechoslovakia ditched 40 years of Communist domination Saturday as the hopes of the 1968 "Prague spring" reform movement blossomed anew two decades after they were crushed by Soviet tanks.

Hardline President Gustav Husak, last of the leaders involved with the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion and its aftermath, stepped down and Czechoslovakia's first government without a Communist majority since 1948 assumed power.

It is a temporary government which shall lead the way to free elections, playwright Vaclav Havel, a former dissident consti-

tuted the most likely successor to Husak, told more than 300,000 elated citizens jammed into Prague's Wenceslas Square.

The people had achieved "a peaceful revolution," he said.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, where a whirlwind of popular discontent has ended or threatened to end Communist domination in most of the Soviet Union's allies, massive crowds took to the streets to back calls for reform or demand faster progress towards democracy.

In East Germany, tens of thousands of people demonstrated in cities across the country as new Communist party leader Gregor Gysi, elected Saturday, faced a test of fire on his pledges

of reform ahead of the country's first free elections next May.

Pro-reform marches took place in Dresden, Magdeburg, Cottbus, Prenzlau and East Berlin, the official ADN news agency said.

But Sebastian Pflugbeil, a leading member of East Germany's biggest opposition group New Forum, said he believed a demonstration in Leipzig Monday, the cradle of a reform movement that shattered 43 years of Communist domination in just two months, would make further demands for German reunification.

In Sofia, up to 50,000 Bulgarians marched through the capital and shouted for their Communist rulers to surrender their monopoly on power and hold talks with the opposition.

In the Soviet Union itself, voters went to the polls in the westward-looking Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to choose new municipal and rural councils in what were the closest multi-party elections in Soviet history (see page 8).

World War II allies France, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States plan a major conference on Monday to discuss the role of Berlin in East-West affairs, sources said Sunday.

The sources in West Berlin said the four-power conference would be the first since the 1971 meeting that drew up the agreement establishing the allies' rights in the city.

Senior Citicorp, Citibank executive ends Jordan visit

AMMAN — Mr. Paul Collier, Citicorp and Citibank vice-chairman and director who was accompanied by Mr. Shakunt Al-Aziz, division head for the Middle East and South East Europe, departed for London after a successful visit to Jordan during which

they met with senior regulators.

In honour of this visit, Citibank Amman hosted a reception at the Amman Plaza Hotel which was attended by senior government officials, diplomats, bankers, and leading businessmen.

within the limits of the law."

He added that the release of confiscated passports was done in a manner which will ensure the minimum psychological and physical anguish.

"We gave all the passports to the passports department so as not to ask their holders to return to the security departments and to facilitate the renewal of these passports if they needed such a measure," he said.

The prime minister did not announce the number of confiscated passports and later said he did not know their exact numbers. Sources, however, maintain that more than 8,700 passports were being held.

Badran, who took office Dec. 4, told Parliament: "There might be some people held under questioning, and I promise that I will look into their cases in light of the government's new policy of normalization

of public freedoms during the four-hour session.

The premier added that a "special committee to study the situation of convicted prisoners has already been established, and this committee has not yet finished its study."

But the prime minister said the government would grant further amnesties to political prisoners as soon as the committee finishes a review of sentences passed on political activists.

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He explained that his government did not yet have all the details on the situation but pointed out that the most important issue remains "that we are launching a new era which has to be appreciated."

The new era, he said, means "The launching of public freedoms, the uplifting of all injustices which we suffered from just as you did."

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Israeli oppression led to Arab uprising — Carter

ATLANTA (R) — Ex-President Jimmy Carter, in a ceremony honouring Middle East human rights workers, has said that Israeli "oppression" in occupied territories had instigated the two-year-old Arab uprising.

Carter also said that, despite some recent policy changes by President George Bush, the "Reagan legacy" of Washington backing for military violence around the world survives.

He said the United States must share responsibility for wars in Central America and other regions in which millions of people are suffering.

Carter, who mediated the Israel-Egypt peace accord and now promotes human rights and peace as a private citizen, made his remarks in an address at his Atlanta Policy Centre, where a \$100,000 prize was given jointly to the Palestinian Al-Haq and Israeli B'tselem groups.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said its diplomats had been told to boycott the ceremony in which the four-year-old human rights award, named for Carter and

French-born Houston philanthropist Dominique de Menil, was to be given to groups monitoring military abuses of Palestinians.

Carter, in his annual "state of human rights address," said activists watching abuses worldwide have only recently begun to focus public attention on the "humiliation and suffering in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on people who for more than 22 years have never known a day of freedom."

"This oppression has instigated the violence of the intifada," he said, adding that "damage to human souls has been reciprocal. The peace, reputation and conscience of Israeli citizens have suffered terribly. Such are the ravages of war."

But the former president, who made human rights a major facet of policy during his presidency from 1977-81, complained that

world leaders are largely indifferent to the cost of war on innocent populations and "scattered outcries for world peace [are] simply ignored or considered signs of weakness or idealistic political aberrations".

"It is not easy to face facts. Everyone knows that the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — yes, the PLO — must work together to resolve the conflict so that Israel's security can be preserved while the Palestinians finally enjoy self-determination and human rights," he said.

"Despite some commendable reverses in policy during recent months, the Reagan legacy survives," Carter asserted. "We have poured billions of dollars into El Salvador, much of the support going to military leaders who openly condone and probably direct the notorious death squads."

"The world knows that it was some of these same Salvadorean army troops who recently murdered six priests... We look the other way and maintain the flow of arms," he added.



Israeli soldiers stand easy on patrol in the Old City of Jerusalem but maintain alert as a Palestinian woman passes on the intifada's second anniversary.

Thousands rally in Jerusalem for Arab-Israeli peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

Thousands of Israeli peace activists carrying candles and portraits of Jewish and Arab children killed in the Palestinian uprising marched silently in occupied Jerusalem Saturday to demand peace talks with the PLO.

The torchlight demonstration was called by the leftist Peace Now Movement to mark the second anniversary of the start of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Police estimated the crowd at 3,500. Organisers said about 5,000 people took part.

The protesters, including many of Israel's leading academics and writers, carried banners saying "143 Jewish and Palestinian children have died in the uprising."

Mounted police and paramilitary border police lined the route, which passed close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's official residence. A handful of right-wing hecklers shouted abuse at the marchers.

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Placards and speakers at the march called on the government to negotiate with the PLO.

"We hope to bring to public attention the blood price that is being paid. This will cause more people to believe that the conflict

should be solved through negotiations," said Tzali Reshet, a spokesman for Peace Now.

The peace activists were bussed in from across the country and included people from Tel Aviv, Israeli Arabs and residents of kibbutzim, or collective farms.

"This isn't a protest like a Eastern Europe, because there no one is getting killed. Here a people are fighting for an existence," said an Israeli Arab who would only give his first name as Ibraim.

Benny Gefen, a farmer whose son was killed in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon, carried a placard that read "it's easy to talk to friends. We must speak with the enemy."

"Enough blood has been shed," he said. "It's time to speak with the PLO. This is one of the things our prime minister does not understand."

8 journalists detained

Meanwhile eight journalists

and cameramen, including Associated Press reporter Hashim Hamad, were detained by the army for more than five hours Saturday after they witnessed soldiers opening fire on Palestinian protesters.

Several cars carrying the journalists were stopped by soldiers after the vehicles left the village of Beni Naim, where two people were killed and one wounded in army gunfire during a protest marking the start of the Palestinian uprising's third year.

He said they were not told if they were accused of any crime but were questioned about whether they knew they had entered a closed military area. Outsiders are forbidden to enter closed zones.

Soldiers often close down towns or villages where trouble develops, sometimes after reporters already are present. The journalists who were detained were asked to leave the village covering a protest march before it turned violent, Hamad said.

Hebron Police Headquarters.

Army spokesman, who cannot be identified under military regulations, said those detained were not arrested or charged. They said the delay in their release came because arrangements had to be made for the films and tapes to be taken for viewing by military officials.

However, Hamad said he and the others each had to sign a bail warrant for 3,000 shekels (\$1,500) before their release.

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Egyptian oil platform seriously damaged

CAIRO (R) — Production has stopped at an oil platform seriously damaged when a ship struck it Friday in the Gulf of Suez, an operating company official said Sunday.

The official, from the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company (GUPCO), could not say when production of 6,000 barrels a day would resume.

He said little oil was spilled as valves to the well closed automatically on impact and no one was hurt.

Egypt's Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel, quoted by the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper, estimated initial damage at \$30 million, mainly in lost production.

Kandeel said production at other platforms would be increased to compensate and shipping would not be affected.

The GUPCO official said the ship, the Panay Sampaguita, had hit the platform while sailing up the Gulf of Suez towards the Suez Canal. He said both weather and visibility had been fine.

The phosphates and fertilizers which the boat was carrying can be harmful to fish and other sea life. Lloyds Shipping Intelligence says the Sterling Grace is managed by Interglobal Marine Agencies, S.A. Piraeus, Greece.

Kokorakis told police.

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Positive route

THE Arab League efforts to put flesh on the Taif accord have taken them now to Baghdad where Iraqi thoughts on how to accelerate the Arab efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to Lebanon will be heard. The fact that the Iraqi government has wholeheartedly welcomed the Arab political itinerary to Baghdad and expressed readiness to lend meaningful support to the on-going Arab search for a viable solution to the Lebanese conflict is certainly a very positive development on the road to peace in that country. Iraq has become a regional power in the Middle East especially after its magnificent victory over Iran and the development of very sophisticated rocketry industry. It is therefore natural and indeed logical that Iraq plays its appropriate role in the events that are shaping the politics of the region.

Likewise Syria is also a regional power in its own right and its ability to influence the course of events in the Middle East is obviously a foregone conclusion. What has been fatally missing during all these past years is the interruption of communication and cooperation between Damascus and Baghdad. This unfortunate state of affairs has had a negative effect on the quest for peace in Lebanon, not to mention other conflicts in the Middle East region. It stands to reason, therefore, that the highest priority be accorded to reestablishing brotherly relations between Syria and Iraq. Once this inevitable development occurs, the entire face of the Arab World would change for the better. The fruits of such a brotherly relation between two sister states will of course have a bearing not only on the Lebanese situation but also on the broader Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq relations. As a matter of fact Arab conflicts and disputes with their near or distant neighbours would begin to find opportunities for just solutions and resolution only when Baghdad and Damascus are on speaking terms on a truly brotherly basis. It behoves both countries, therefore, to make stronger and more persistent efforts to repair the bridges between them if not for their own respective interests then for the sake of entire Arab order and welfare.

It is with this backdrop that the Arab World welcomes the visit of Saudi Al Faisal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, and Ahmad Ghazali, the foreign minister of Algeria together with the Arab League's special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim to Baghdad to pursue the search for peace in Lebanon. With the future of the Arab efforts in Lebanon hanging on the balance, the success of the Arab visit to Iraq would surely determine which way these efforts should turn.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday gave prominence to statements given by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak following the latter's brief visit to Jordan and his talks with the King on Middle East issues. The paper said that the two leaders' emphasis on the rights of the Palestinian people and their determination to work together to support the Palestinian people's struggle coincided with the second anniversary of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The King and the Egyptian president both pledged to maintain the momentum of their efforts to help the Palestinian people live in peace and freedom, something that is being sought by the international community and opposed by the Israeli occupation authorities, the paper noted. It said that the two leaders' meeting in Amman bore a clear indication to the Palestinians who are waging a war of liberation against the enemy that their kinsmen and brothers can never forget their cause and that the Arab Nation is firmly behind the PLO's attempts to regain freedom and legitimate rights. The King and Mubarak who, of course, consulted on Arab affairs, dwelt in particular on the Palestine question and means of giving impetus to the peace process, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday says there is no alternative for the Arabs but to rely totally on themselves in their long struggle with the Israeli enemy. Fahd Al Khawari points out that in the light of the current international events in general and the attitude of the Soviet Union in particular, the Arab countries have no choice but to build up their own forces and depend on their own intrinsic power in their confrontation with the Israeli enemy which continues to occupy Arab land in Palestine. The writer notes that Moscow is now trying to end the cold war with the West at any cost and is rearranging its priorities in such a manner so as to offer service for the Soviet people. He draws attention to the fact that the Soviet Union is now moving from the status of a traditional and permanent friend of the Arabs to a neutral friendly state with less concern to the events in the Middle East region. This means, says the writer, that Moscow will sooner or later leave the Arabs to face their own fate, following more than four decades of assistance to the Arab Nation and in view of the new developments on the world scene. The writer notes also that a disengagement in the alliance between the Soviets and the Arabs coincides with a hardened position on the part of the United States and Israel towards the Arab Nation and in view of the new developments on the world scene. The writer notes also that a disengagement in the alliance between the Soviets and the Arabs coincides with a hardened position on the part of the United States and Israel towards the Arab Nation and this, he notes, should be taken into consideration by the Arab governments which must now opt to bolstering intrinsic Arab forces and mobilising Arab resources in the political, economic and military fields to confront any eventualities in the coming stage.

Al Dustour daily on Sunday said the King Hussein's talks with President Mubarak assumed a great significance, coming in the midst of serious developments on the Arab scene and as the Palestinian people's uprising enters its third year. The statements given to the press by the two leaders reflect the Egyptian-Jordanian coordination of stands and full cooperation in the course of providing assistance to the oppressed people of Palestine, said the paper. It noted that the two leaders dwelt in particular on the Middle East crisis and reviewed ways to give momentum to the peace process and to back the PLO's efforts to attain the aspirations and fulfill the hopes of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Weekly Political Pulse

What path should uprising take?

By Waleed Sadi

TO PARAPHRASE Mahatma Gandhi's words during the Indian struggle for independence, violent uprising enflames the will and determination of the colonial powers while non-violent and peaceful struggle against those powers would open their eyes and hearts. Many observers and commentators would venture to offer the wisdom of Gandhi on how the Palestinian uprising should proceed as it enters its third year. In rebuttal, other commentators would argue that what suited India may not suit the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the two situations are not comparable. Yet after two years on the start of the Palestinian intifada, often characterised as semi-violent, it is a propitious occasion to take stock of the path that the intifada has taken and appraise its future course, knowing full well that the best judge of which way the intifada must continue is the Palestinian people under occupation.

From a purely conceptual point of view, the principal difficulty with a quasi violent insurgency is that it is neither one kind nor the other and thus it is ending up with all the risks of a violent insurgency without the full benefits of a peaceful and Gandhi-like struggle for independence and self-determination. There would come a day when the Palestinian uprising must choose which way it wants to go instead of treading the on-going middle course, which is like having the worst of the two worlds. The pitfalls associated with turning the uprising into an armed conflict are too obvious to require elucidation. Suffice to recall in this context that there is always the risk that the Israeli hardliners, the likes of Sharon, Levy and Modai, would resort to the full Israeli military

might to quash the armed resistance and execute their conspiracy to "transfer" the Palestinians to neighbouring Arab countries. However, an international public outcry could prevent this from happening and frustrate the diabolical designs of the extremist in Israel.

Nevertheless, like violent resistance to Israeli occupation, semi-violent opposition to Israeli colonialism of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has apparently done what Gandhi has cautioned against, i.e., inflamed the stubbornness of the Israeli establishment and hardened its public opinion. This is at least what the latest opinion polls conducted in Israel reveal. How accurate such polls are in reflecting the real sentiments of the Israeli body politic is another question. Putting aside public opinion in Israel as portrayed by polls, there is no doubt that the Israeli establishment fears non-violent opposition to their occupation perhaps more than they fear the semi-violent one. The example of Beit Sahur, which shook the whole world a few weeks ago, is a case in point. What happened there was a demonstration of a Palestinian will to reject taxation without representation in the most peaceful way possible. It so happens that the principle against payment of taxation without representation is a cardinal rule in contemporary Western civilisation with which the entire world sympathises wholeheartedly. And there is no denying that the case of Beit Sahur has contributed to the quest of the Palestinian people for self-government and independence a great deal.

Another case in point is the deportation of pacifist Mubarak Awad by the Israeli authorities to the U.S. a few months ago. It will be recalled that Awad, a Palestinian American, had advocated a non-violent opposition to Israeli occupation. Tel Aviv feared so much his peaceful ways against their occupation and tyranny that they hurriedly deported him despite strong protests from Washington. The haste with which Israel had acted against Awad does indeed suggest that the Israeli leaders fear most his style of resistance. Mubarak Awad's ways have indeed fortified what Mahatma Gandhi had foreseen few decades ago when he counselled his people that non-violent resistance would open the eyes and hearts not only of the entire international community but also those of the adversary as well.

Still in order to paint a more complete picture of violent and non-violent uprisings, it is in order to recall that in many other parts of the world, the struggle for independence took the route of an armed conflict. Gandhi's style of peaceful persuasion succeeded very well in India. Yet the same could be true had the Indian taken the violent road to independence. The arguments for non-violent uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be more overwhelming than for violent intifada in view of the wide disparity between the two sides in armament and weaponry. But whatever the future course of the Palestinian intifada, a decision must be taken one way or the other rather than keeping it right in between where it stands.

Weary big brothers

By Martin Walker

FOR ONCE the conventional wisdom was right. This Malta summit was indeed historic. But the conventional wisdom is right for the wrong reasons. The importance of the Bush-Gorbachev meeting at Malta was finally and clearly to signal the end not of the Cold war, but of the superpower era.

All the guff about the end of the Cold War is getting a bit tiresome. We heard this cliché after the Washington summit of December 1987, and after the Moscow summit of 1988 and after the Reagan-Gorbachev farewell session in New York last December.

The only honest thing anyone important has said about the Cold War recently was George Bush at his press conference in Brussels, finally confessing why he refused to play the game of giving easy headlines to lazy hacks. "If I signal to you the Cold War is over, everyone will be saying what are you doing with your troops still in Europe," he told us.

It was a striking flash of candour from a much relieved president. Bush had arrived in Malta as nervous as a schoolboy on his first big date. This is not to disparage the man. His boyishness, his capacity to be genuinely enthused, is one of the president's most attractive features.

Even though we all know that Bush is a wealthy patrician from a family of New England grandees, Americans like to feel they are ruled by Tom Sawyer, and Bush's air of whole-some innocence is not altogether artificial. Gorbachev is no Huckleberry Finn, but the Malta summit did see a personal relationship established. Ironically, the terrible weather gave them a sense of shared good fortune. "Gee, Mikhail, remember when we were all sick in Malta" bonding experience which is going to prove useful in the future.

But this helplessness of the commanders of the world's two most powerful navies before the winter storms of the Mediterranean symbolised the deeper impotence of the two superpowers as the world they once commanded simply vapourised. There has been a great deal of self-congratulation about the whole move towards Europe '92. We tend conveniently to forget that when we talk grandly of European civilisation we are referring to the most warlike, unruly, greedy and vicious peoples on the planet. No wonder the rest of the world is worried about us.

The tragedy of Europe's history is that the comment has already been dominated by one bully or another. The only alternative that history has found to the domination of Europe by France, Britain and Russia, and so we exhausted islanders became part of the European problem, while America took our place to be ready to intervene.

There was a time when this meant us British and the Russians were able to put together the effective land-sea coalition to defeat Napoleon. The emergence of the German superpower proved beyond the combined powers of France, Britain and Russia, and so we exhausted islanders became part of the European problem, while America took our place as the solution.

The superpowers at Malta, and the rest of their allies at the NATO meeting in Brussels, tried to agree on terms under which German re-unification would be permitted. It was an honourable attempt. But it is almost certainly doomed to fail.

Even as Bush and Gorbachev agreed over the weekend that it was time to slow down the German process, the bombshell of the East German leaders' secret Swiss bank accounts was exploding in Berlin, and accelerating the German revolution even faster.

A state without a justification since the collapse of its ideology, East Germany now lacks even a government. Vernon Walters, the US ambassador to Bonn, gave a private prediction recently that within five years there would be a united Germany with a capital in Berlin.

We still have some little time to go, but essentially we fractions, quarrelsome Europeans had better get used to the prospect of being left to our own dangerous devices. We have exhausted their patience and their resources, and the grown-ups are preparing to leave — The Guardian.

U.S. prestige eroding at U.N.

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The PLO's failure to win U.N. recognition as the government of Palestine is the latest in a series of confrontations that have put the United States on a collision course with the world body and generated suspicion about U.S. motives.

Last Wednesday, Arab states, pressured by the United States, abandoned their efforts to enhance the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and recognise it as the provisional government of the state of Palestine.

The United States had threatened to cut off funding to the United Nations if the 159-nation world body agreed to enhance the PLO's status, giving it a standing equivalent to that of other non-voting observer states, like the Vatican, Switzerland, San Marino and North and South Korea.

The United States, the major U.N. donor, was effectively threatening the organisation with bankruptcy if it did not obey Washington and drop the PLO.

The PLO and some Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. action had enhanced the visibility of the PLO and, in the long run, had strengthened its cause.

But they and other diplomats did not expect the move would alter the way the United States does business in the world body.

The United States is the organisation's largest donor and is one of five permanent members of the 15-member Security Council with veto power. The U.S. government can kill any measure in the council, which can pass mandatory resolutions and is the most important U.N. body.

Although the United States is outvoted in the 159-nation General Assembly, that body's resolutions are not binding.

The PLO already is invited to speak during all General Assembly debates concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian question. The Security Council routinely overrides U.S. efforts to keep the pio from participating in debates there.

Riyadh H. Mansour, deputy

permanent observer of the PLO, said the U.S. efforts at "financial blackmail" had harmed U.S. credibility and attempting to unfairly influence the issue with "financial terrorism."

Last week, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation defied a U.S. threat to cut off funds and gave greater recognition to the PLO. It voted overwhelmingly to help it train Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, assembly President Joseph Garba and the leaders of regional groups in the world body all denounced Washington for linking its funding to the assembly's vote on a specific issue.

The United States is assessed \$216 million each year, one quarter of the U.N. budget. But it also contributes \$459 million in general arrears and owes an additional \$191 million in contributions to peacekeeping operations.

The United States won the battle over the PLO issue because of its financial might. But in the long run it may have lost additional prestige and honour in the organisation by throwing its weight around, without regard to the will of the majority, said some diplomats from Arab and developing world nations.

Arab states, although bowing to U.S. pressure, criticised the

United States for late 1987 when the U.S. Congress adopted an anti-terrorism law that called for closing the U.N. observer mission of the PLO, on grounds that it indirectly promoted terrorism.

Last week, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation defied a U.S. threat to cut off funds and gave greater recognition to the PLO. It voted overwhelmingly to help it train Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The State Department has not announced whether it will make good on previous threats to halt funding or possibly withdraw from FAO.

The PLO was given observer status to the United Nations in 1975 after a visit by Chairman Yasser Arafat. The United Nations considers it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

But the United States, an ally of Israel, consistently has sought to curtail PLO rights, guaranteed by the most country agreement between the United States and the United Nations. It has claimed that the PLO is a "terrorist" organisation and should not be represented in the world body.

The U.S.-PLO dispute at the

adding it was suspicious that Cojuangco returned from political exile in the United States a week before the coup.

The Philippine Inquirer said in a Saturday editorial that she must do more than entertain the crowd with fighting talk.

It called for a cabinet reshuffle to give the government a new start, urged Aquino to tackle corruption and said she must find a way to help the military with its primary task of combating the Communist rebels.

Aquino, saying the country was facing "grave and serious problems which threaten our political and economic stability," has asked the congress for emergency powers to rule.

Some senators fear her request for powers of arrest, seizure and detention, smack too much of the martial law period under Marcos that eventually led to Aquino's victory.

Referring to Aquino's public attacks on Laurel, Enrile and Cojuangco, political commentator and former Marcos labour minister Blas Ople warned: "The president... has unsheathed the sword not of justice but of the avenger."

"This sword, unless restrained by the constitution through the supreme court, can wreak havoc on national unity. This bodies not only for the nation's stability, but also for the security of the president's remaining tenure."

tors of the coup," he said.

In a much-applauded speech on Friday, Aquino urged Vice-President Laurel to quit, saying the budget for his office could be used better elsewhere.

She challenged him to explain the coincidence that he was always out of the capital when there was a coup attempt. "He keeps saying: Cory resign, Cory resign. What does he think I am, a fool, that I will resign so he will become president?"

Naming names for the first time, Aquino also implicitly tied former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and her own first cousin, wealthy industrialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to the coup that nearly toppled her.

Aquino said the senate would investigate Enrile's possible role, and the president's remaining tenure.



An ode to Jerusalem

By Ibrahim I Qasaiti

How, when no more than two scores passed,
That my memory roved in time, stimulated
By stones, when, after being through,
Some miles and few streets and alleys,
The blue sea appeared from such a nook,
From Jaffa, called then "mother of the poor",
A part of land coerced them by Jews
Now, by paleological doctrines enforced
During this age of decadence — worldwide.
There, I sat breathing the serene, satisfied
Air, looking at the waves, looks rhyming
With the inner cadence of the waters. Just then,
A glance escaped from the sea, bewitched a girl,
A foreign young girl, and my fingers gleaned
A pebble to throw it at her. She was sprightly;
The pebble, inanimate, I dropped the pebble
In the sea, and it was lost: the girl, neither.
So many years passed, when his twin, a stone,
Emerged alive, like a giant, one and many.
To enthrall my whole-being, yet with ecstasy:
For, a master stone — shaper reshaped this
Stone, breathed life into it, as did
Man received from God. Alas, the master,
One among Grecian gods, is a martyr who
Breathed life to stone and lost his own.
But the stones' Master has not died, for masters
Of such a great cause, Al-Jihad, are in heaven,
And now, the stones thus alive, are
Talking on this globe, talking to all nations
The story of indignation, of people suppressed,
And yet talking to all one language, but well
Communicated to and comprehended by all languages,
Because simple stone has a language Universal.
Therefore, for that stone, and many other, with awe
And for the life in them, undivine though, and after
Two years uprising, few lines of Psalmic Exhortation.

I

Bless thee, stones of Jerusalem,
Bless thee, stones of Al-Intifada.
For as the child of Bethlehem
Later uttered condemnation of Judah
You stones uttered the emblem
Of some children, Knights of Armadah.
Bless thee Al-Intifada stones of Jerusalem,
Bless thee, Jerusalem stones of Al-Intifada.

II

Bless thee stones, banners of freedom,
In Jerusalem building a new kingdom;
Jerusalem anew, clean of filthy whoredom.
Yet, each stone by itself now seldom.
Moses and Israel, though not at random
Thrown — nor by kids at ease of serfdom.
Yea, each stone by itself is a kingdom:
Yea, each stone is a banner of freedom.

III

Bless thee stones, now a raging sword
Against profanity in Jerusalem by God abhorred:
Each stone cursing a Jew, inland and abroad.
And each stone next to his brother, all in accord
A wall around Jerusalem, nay — the world;
Building a fort against servitude and fraud,
New wall built by the brave and the bold,
Embracing humankind as did Christ in days old.

IV

Bless thee stones, in the River of Jordan baptised,
Being thus ordained to protect a land monopolised,
Usurped, and embalmed by some people, uncircumcised.
By some false people — from Zion or, Zionsed:
Blessed stones our Holy Land must be fertilised,
Our men, women, and children their honour — chastised,
A free country, self-determination, and government — realised.
Blessed stone: fertile, chastise, realise rights brutalised.

V

Bless thee inanimate stones, how now animate
By the gravity of your native's love, unmastered?
Rolling away from martyrs grave to stipulate,
Like that stone on Jesus tomb, fire inmate
In the bosom of innocent creatures so passionate,
Fire like that of the pentecost, a working mate,
Spiritual, among nations, by Heaven undulate,
Fire of resurrection for people suppressed, prostrate.

VI

Bless thee, mate of the Dome of the Rock — stone,
For, as on that Rock a barbarian blow away was drawn.
So shall modern barbarism on these stone off be blown.
Blessed stone, off these shall martyrs to heaven without moan,
As did Mohammad from the Rock, a path to Heaven known.
Mate of the Rock, with the Sacred Rock, a fate born —
By cosmic process, signs azure implying events anom,
Annihilate inhumane crimes committed by race so — wanton.

VII

Bless thee, stone, articulate decree lasting to eternity —
French Revolution rejuvenated, symbol of the holiest entity,
And blessed sanctuary that binds human kind in fidelity.
Bless thee stone, destined to be the corner stone of Liberty.
Bless thee stone, to all nations, the corner stone of Equality:
Whereas the French Revolution failed of base infinity,
When pervert emotions eclipsed our sublime humanity,
Blessed stone, thou fairied, in cradle, by hallowed sanctity.

VIII

Bless thee stone, giving Time dimension and meaning,
Made the Past, the Present, the Future a new breeding,
With Mary's forever dropping tears passionately seeping.
And unity with the blood of Jesus, blood ever bleeding,
Blessed stone, tears, and blood-unleavened bread for eating:
Our soul, mind, and body need that sort of feeding,
Our nutrition for two years past, years to come of heaving.
Blessed stones, your warriors and prophets are speaking.

IX

Yea blessed stones — from mists and clouds appearing,
A vision, like the chariot of Elijah, from heaven peering
To the Gods of the Olympic a sacred message bearing,
As did Moses received on Mt. Sinai — tables rearing
Commandments — tables, that on a black evening
Stand like pillars of fire, showing our people and leading
Their path away from the wilderness, of pain and weeping.
That lasted some forty years, and history itself is repeating.

X

You, endowers of Liberty, day and night,
Watch those tiny stones like stars very bright,
Al-Intifada stones glitter, a magnificent sight,
Yet each now but a wailing wall of plight,
For Palestinians here, the diaspora, wherever they fight,
Against the yoke of occupation — brimly tight,
Watch the dawn of freedom on the horizon alight,
By stony asteroids, gospels of a celestial knight.



Abano Terme, Italy's famous therapeutic centre, lies in the shadows of the Euganean Hills.



One of the open-air swimming pools in Abano Terme.

Abano Terme — Europe's oldest mud therapy centre

ABANO TERME, Italy — A jewel in the countryside of the Euganean hills 42 kilometres away from Venice, Abano Terme is not only the most important mud therapy health resort in Europe but also the oldest in the continent.

Its origins are lost in legend. Its name "A Ponos" is of Greek origin which means "that which removes pain."

It is said that when the Euganean people saw how steam arising from the furrows cut by their ploughs and boiling water gushing from the springs, they realised the therapeutic properties of the water which was able to restore them after a day's hard work.

Religious tendencies led the Euganean people to venerate the natural phenomenon in the person of the God Aponus — "he who removes pain."

Archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Romans built baths in the area at the foot of the hills where Abano Terme now stands.

Abano Terme owes its age-old success to the effectiveness of the treatments carried out there, among which fango (mud) therapy figures high.

Throughout the centuries, the therapeutic properties of thermal treatments have attracted famous personalities such as Petrarch, Shakespeare, Goethe and Mozart to the town, according to

The area was firmly established as a modern centre for therapeutic tourism in the second half of this century. The thermal water comes from the Small Dolomites; it penetrates the subsoil as far as 3,000 metres and returns to the surface, heated to 87 degrees Centigrade during its slow, 50-year journey underground. As the demand for therapeutic tourism increased, the necessary structures were modified and the medical assistance strengthened.

The age-old tested validity of mud therapy was flanked by scientific studies on the geological nature of the basin. So today, Abano Terme relies on first-rate medical and scientific structures and on tourist as well as health care facilities that make it the most important mud-treatment centre in the world.

The used mud is collected and regenerated with the same procedure.

Mud treatment produces beneficial therapeutic effects by means of a local pain-relieving action which relaxes and tones up

teria and protzoa. Before use, the mud is left to undergo a maturing process in special open-air tanks through which runs the spring water, enriching it with mineral salts and stimulates the growth of special algae that are responsible for a large part of its healing properties.

The used mud is collected and regenerated with the same procedure.

It is these treatments that make Abano Terme an important place in Italy and Europe, and it was the main reason behind holding the third international health and spa symposium in Abano Terme.

invited famous European medical specialists to speak during the two-day event (Oct. 29-30) about methods of treatment and healing on the basis on natural resources.

Fit Reisen, which initiated the symposium, is the organisation that promotes European therapeutic and health resorts for tourism.

"Health fitness is a human need," said Mayor of Abano Terme Armando Gennaro. "Thermalism is part of this treatment."

According to the mayor, who spoke in a press conference after

the symposium, over 250,000 people from all over the world visited Abano Terme in 1988, 45 per cent from West Germany.

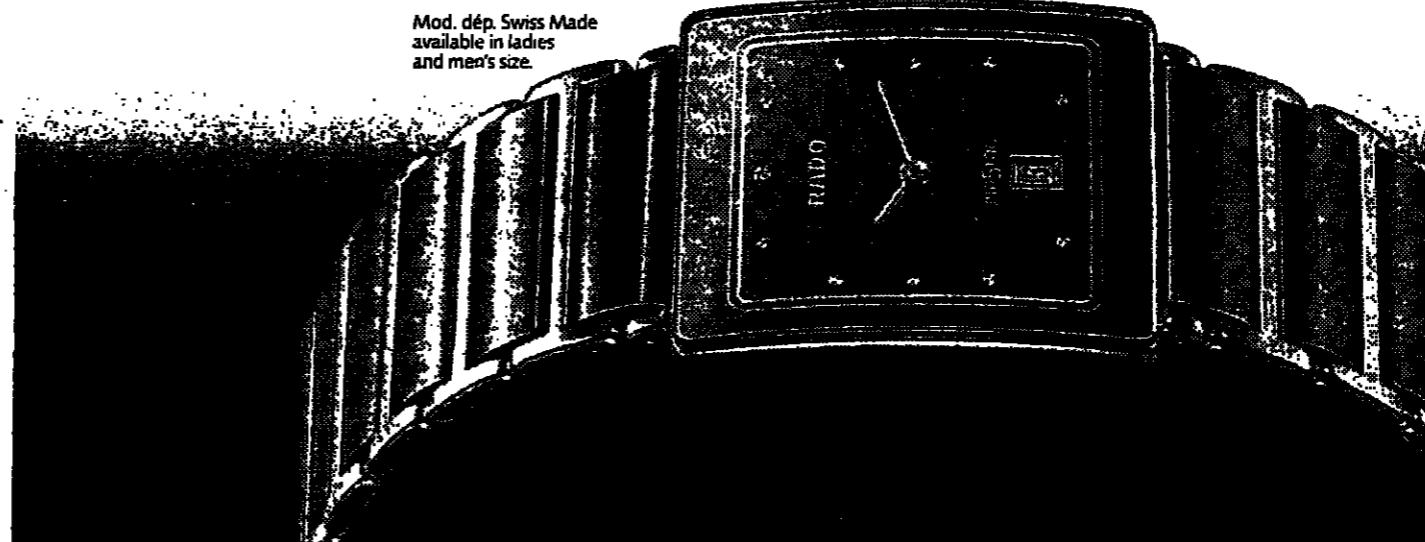
There are over 170 "thermal" hotels in the Euganean basin, each having its own thermal spring. Every hotel is also a treatment clinic.

"We cannot cure every disease by spa treatment," said the mayor, "but we can build up and improve the quality of life not only for our patients but also for people who want to keep fit."

— (AKV)

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Economy

Conference focuses on financial role in Jordan's future planning, progress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University in Irbid Sunday hosted the first conference on the role of accountancy, financial and banking operations in economic development in Jordan.

Nearly 30 researchers and specialists from Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the three-day meeting which is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Standing in for Prince Hassan, Irbid Governor Jawdat Shouf delivered the opening address underlining the importance of finance and accountancy in the construction and development process in the Kingdom and the role the Jordanian universities

can play in this respect. Jordan is facing very difficult circumstances and challenges but refuses to capitulate and succumb to pressure and can never retreat from its economic and development programmes designed to help the country and its citizens face the future with greater confidence, Shouf said in his address.

The university's vice president for administrative affairs, Fouad Al Sheikh Salem, said that the conference is being held at a time when Jordan is in most need of



Arab and foreign financial experts listen to the opening speech Sunday at Yarmouk University. Dr. Sayel Ramadan, chairman of the conference's preparatory committee, to encourage research work in these fields.

He said that the participants would discuss in detail the financial and accountancy problems encountered by various organisations and will suggest possible solutions for them as well as ways to encourage research work in these fields.

Yarmouk University officials said that the meeting would focus attention on the role of accountancy in development, the contributions of banks and financial institutions towards stimulating the national economy especially in planning matters and controls.



The Jordanian and Sudanese delegations confer before concluding a new trade agreement (Petra photo)

Turkey offers credits to Poland, Hungary

ANKARA (R) — As the iron curtain crumbles between East and West Europe, Turkey's Eximbank is offering tempting credits for Polish and Hungarian buyers in line with similar deals for the Soviet Union.

Turgay Ozkan, Eximbank general manager, told Reuters loans of around \$100-\$200 million had been suggested to Warsaw and Budapest through foreign ministry channels for purchase of Turkish goods.

"The crumbling of walls just speeded up our plans — we were

thinking of credits for Hungary and Poland anyway," Ozkan said.

Turkey's Eximbank has agreed some \$150 million export finance credit for Moscow and further \$100 million loans were likely in coming months.

Moscow is interested in buying Turkish goods ranging from detergents to textiles, from leather jackets to shoes.

It has spent \$80 million out of the total \$300 million on pharmaceuticals, Ozkan said.

The Soviet Union will also receive \$350 million in Eximbank loans with a likely term of between five to seven years to finance some 15 turnkey projects by Turkish companies.

Such turnkey projects, expected to start late in 1990, will include food processing, hotels and light industry.

In 1989 between NATO-member Turkey and the Soviet Union is expected to reach a billion dollars — more than double the 1985 level — to double again next year and reach \$4 billion worth in a couple of years, officials said.

China has been offered \$200 million worth of export credits, Jordan \$50 million and Syria \$20 million. Algeria has accepted between \$100-\$200 million and Iraq and Libya have been offered \$300 million worth each.

Eximbank credits will also serve to diversify Turkey's export markets now dominated by the European Community (EC) countries, bankers said.

But bankers say exports have performed well despite such negative factors. A two per cent fall in the first nine-month exports over the same 1988 period is less than feared.

The government Friday unveiled details of its economic recovery plan which included a seven-fold increase in the price of coal.

The Solidarity-led government has warned that its crash programme to transform Poland's command economy along Western lines could lead to a 20 per cent drop in living standards and a 12 per cent fall in industrial output.

It has pledged to cut spending, tighten tax discipline and limit pay increases.

Argentina rations sales of gasoline

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — President Carlos Menem reaffirmed his anti-inflation programme Saturday after the Argentine government rationed petrol sales and fired hundreds of train drivers who went on strike.

Five of the country's six state-owned railway lines came to a halt after 300 drivers were dismissed for joining a strike for higher pay Thursday. Menem told strikers "to keep in mind that many Argentines are looking for jobs."

Menem's five-month-old administration reacted strongly to signs of lack of public confidence as its July 9 economic programme faltered.

"The economic plan continues in force," Menem told reporters. "We are on the right path... and I repeat we will need major surgery without anaesthesia, at least two-and-a-half to three years to start seeing the fruits of our toil."

Menem took office amid the country's worst-ever economic crisis. A wave of food riots killed at least 14 people in late May and early June.

In scenes reminiscent of the earlier crisis, shoppers last week jammed into supermarkets and motorists rushed to fill up their cars' tanks on reports that prices would leap after the government adjusted its economic programme.

The government late Friday limited petrol sales to 10 litres for customer and ordered refineries to fill petrol orders. Filling station owners, fearing wholesale price increases and worries about dwindling supplies, had

threatened to shut down for four days.

While the Peronist programme intended to drive monthly inflation down to two per cent in December, private economists say it will be at least 10 per cent, up from November's 6.5 per cent.

On the financial side, banks from Japan, Britain and Argentina agreed to establish a joint investment company to help finance debt-ridden Argentina and assist in the privatisation of former government-owned firms, officials have said.

Japan's Bank of Tokyo, Britain's Midland Bank and Argentina's Banco Rio De La Plata signed an agreement in New York to establish a new investment company, the Argentine Private Development Trust Co. (APDTC), said a Bank of Tokyo official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The three banks will invest equally in the \$500 million firm, which will open its doors January 1990, the official said.

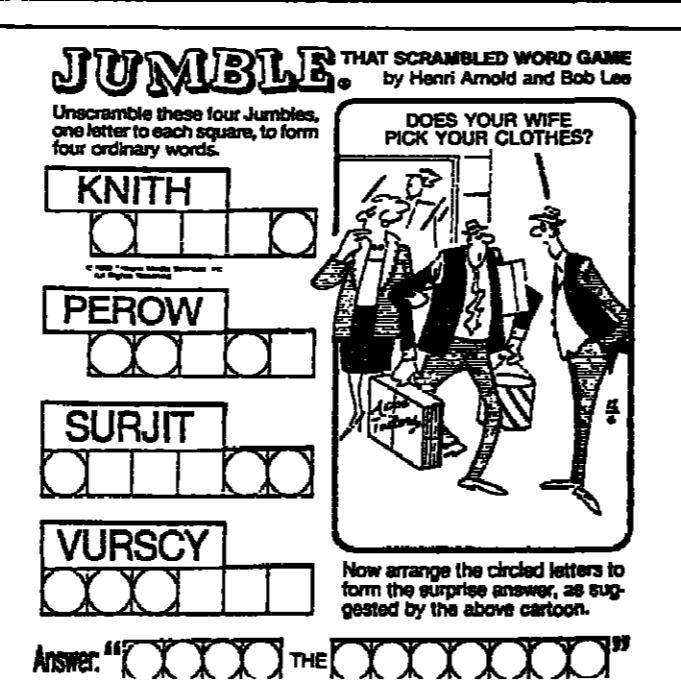
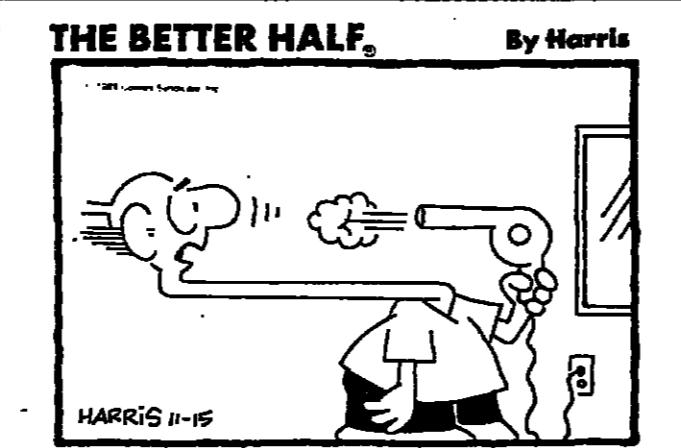
As the first joint venture between Argentina and foreign banks, APDTC will be financed by the debt equity conversion method. Under that method, Argentina's central bank will pay the company in austral, the Argentine currency unit, and then APDTC will sell discounted government bonds. This will help reduce some of the country's debt, the official said.

Argentina has suffered annual inflation of 32 per cent, and the nation has a foreign debt of \$56 billion.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

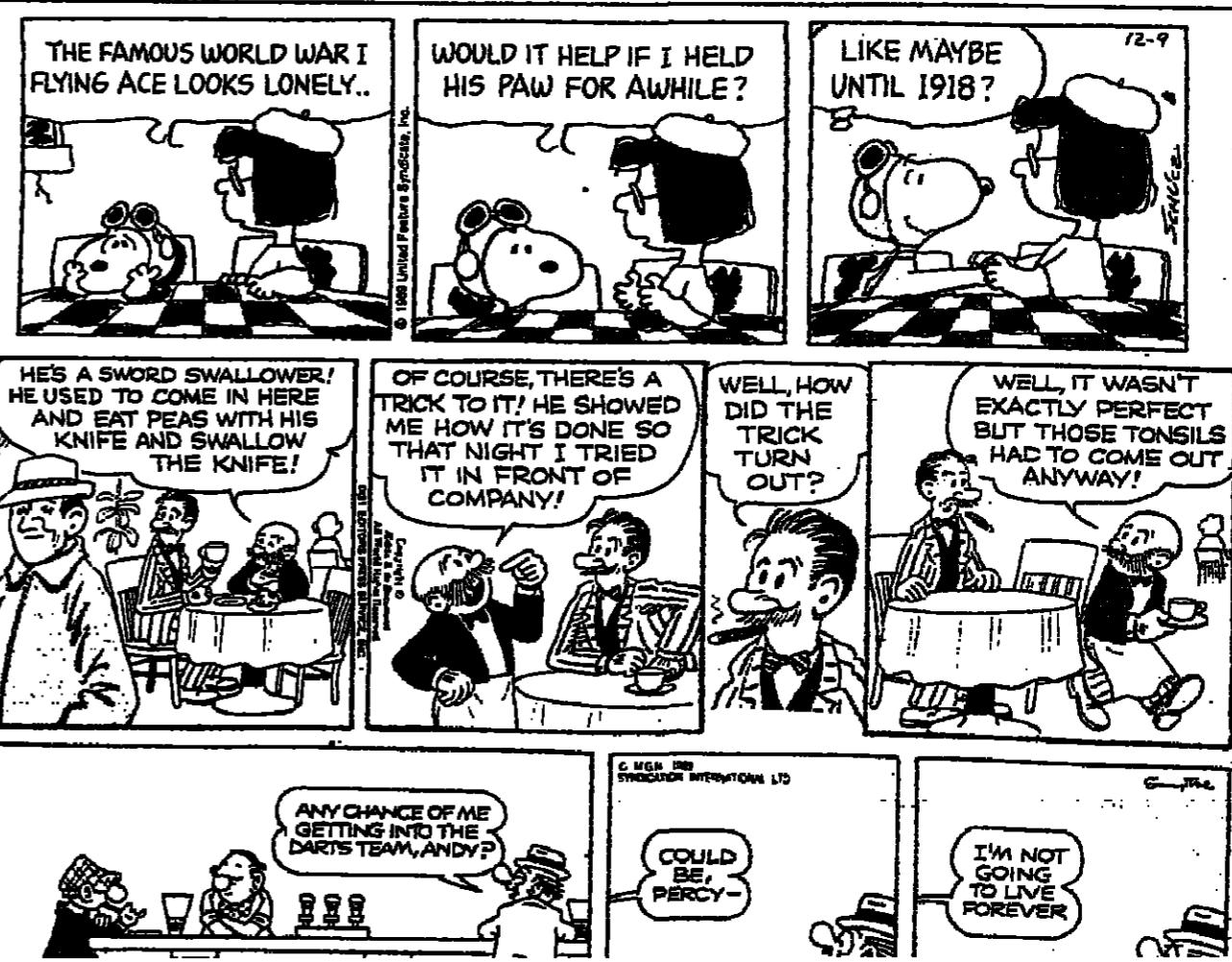
Sunday, December 10, 1989
Central Bank official rates

106.3 107.4



Answer: THE

Peanuts
Mutt'n' Jeff
Capp



JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989

Libyans drain treasury

TRIPOLI (R) — An economic relaxation in Libya, aimed at defusing political discontent after years of austerity, has left the country living beyond its means and facing a delicate balancing act for at least two years, economists say.

Official figures show the trade balance swung into deficit last year for the first time since at least 1973 and foreign reserves have tumbled.

The balance on services also took a turn for the worse as hundreds of thousands of Libyans took advantage of easier rules on foreign travel. More than a million, about a quarter of the population, visited Tunisia alone in 1988.

Diplomats say Colonel Muammar Gaddafi had to let more goods into the country and more Libyans out because dissatisfaction with economic conditions was about to develop into a political crisis.

Austerity was imposed in the early 1980s with a drop in the world price of oil, Libya's main source of foreign exchange.

With oil prices still relatively weak, Libya will have to keep dipping into foreign reserves over the next two years to meet the demand for imports and travel abroad, economists said.

According to figures made available to Reuters, Libya ran up a trade deficit in 1988 of \$173 million after a surplus in 1987 of \$363 million.

Imports in 1988 cost \$220 million more than in 1987.

The deficit on the services account grew by \$700 million while revenue from oil exports fell \$320 million.

Reforms begun last year encouraged limited private enter-

prise after years of tight state control of the economy.

The 1989 budget set aside 150 million dinars (about \$510 million) for imports by individuals and partnerships. Diplomats said some officials were diverting allocations to friends and relatives.

Under government decree this year, only gold, tobacco, medicines, insecticides, petroleum products and some foodstuffs will remain state import monopolies.

Private businessmen might also be allowed to import goods with their own foreign exchange — a revolutionary step which implicitly recognises the existence of a black market in hard currencies.

But the scope of economic reform is limited. An official document obtained by Reuters this month indicated Tripoli will not allow capitalist-style companies to emerge.

Tripoli is also reluctant to devolve the dinar to encourage exports and scrap price controls, measures recommended by foreign economic advisers.

"We are satisfied with the way the exchange rate system works but will review it if the need arises," an official said.

Diplomats said reservations about the private sector were holding back the break up of the monopoly on imports enjoyed by big state corporations.

Some corporation officials had been making profits on the side and did not want to give these up to a new class of professional businessmen, the diplomats said.

Libya says that, in line with past practice, it will not borrow from abroad. The country has no external debt.

Modrow details economic woes, sets up commission

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Premier Hans Modrow has appointed a government commission to review economic overhauls, listing slow economic growth and an enormous foreign debt of \$20.6 billion among the increasing threats to the East German economy.

The Sudeten team Saturday met with Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz to discuss general trade matters with Jordan and means of implementing the 1988 trade protocol between them.

Agreement came at a committee held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Sunday during which the two sides discussed principles of trade exchanges, exemptions of customs duty and types of commodities to be exchanged.

Among other specific matters discussed, Petra added, was the sale of Jordanian cement to Sudan. Sudan, according to the agency, had earlier expressed desire to import cement and the Jordan Cement Factories company has decided to set up a silo in Sudan where it can store the Jordanian cement prior to marketing the product in the African country.

The Sudeten team Saturday met with Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz to discuss general trade matters with Jordan and means of implementing the 1988 trade protocol between them.

Modrow appointed the commission Saturday, just hours after taking part in a marathon Communist Party session that elected Gregor Gysi the new party chairman.

The reformist premier offered an unusually blunt assessment of the economy, once considered the model for Eastern Europe.

Modrow told reporters the economy also has been hit by consumer shortages and price hikes in a country where inflation until recently was officially almost non-existent.

The foreign debt for each of East Germany's 16.3 million people works out to about \$12,600.

East German leaders are studying various methods to improve production, ranging from loosening central planning controls to attracting more foreign investment.

West Germany has offered East Germany massive financial aid, if East Germany goes forward with its reform programme and embarks on a course towards a free market economy.

However, the East Berlin government rejects the introduction of free market elements, saying that would ruin the country's identity as a socialist system.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann is to travel to East Berlin Thursday

and, according to the Hamburg-based news magazine Der Spiegel, will be carrying a financial aid plan with him.

The plan's steps range from greater numbers of East German craftsmen working in West Germany to financial guarantees for East Germany's foreign trade, according to Der Spiegel.

Earlier Saturday, the Communist Party apologised for leading the country into crisis.

Meanwhile, according to an army reservist, thousands of military conscripts are working in East German factories and mines to fill jobs left vacant by this year's mass exodus of young workers to the West.

The reservist, a private interviewed by Reuters during a one-day visit to West Berlin, could give no figure for the total number of conscripts assigned to industry.

"But half the beds in my barracks are empty," he said. He is doing three months' reserve duty in an artillery barracks near East Berlin which normally houses 3,000-4,000 men. The East German armed forces have 178,000 men.

The private said many reservists had been called back to service to compensate for a low birth rate in the early 1970s, which has reduced the number of conscripts available for the 18 months' basic training done by all East German men.

He said the conscripts were delighted to be assigned to unskilled work in factories and even in mines since they were billeted with civilian families, had their evenings free and got a wage of

100-150 marks (\$55-\$80) a month on top of their basic army pay of 150 marks.

"It's a lot better than in barracks," he said.

The army does pretty well out of it too, he added. A factory that is short of, say, 50 workers concludes a contract with the local army barracks for the supply of 50 conscripts for three or four months.

Each man gets 100-150 marks from the factory. The balance of what the factory would have paid a regular employee, perhaps 600 marks (\$320), would go to the army.

The reservist said the political liberalisation of the past six weeks had been welcomed by rank and file. The two days of political indoctrination a month have been scrapped.

New regulations permit the wearing of civilian clothes off duty and unrestricted travel, even to Western countries. When they cross to West Germany soldiers can, like any other East Germans, pick up the Bonn government's 100-mark "welcome money" payment.

But the changes have also aroused discontent. "Imagine a battalion of 1,000 men," he said. "They all want to go across to West Berlin or West Germany on a visit straight away. But they can't all get leave at once. The ones that wait get pretty fed up."

One consolation — in future East German soldiers will be allowed to watch West German television.

Feelings in the officer corps about the changes are mixed, the private believed.

Sports

Italy delighted with World Cup draw

By Paul Radford
Reuter

ROME — Italians basked in early World Cup glory on Sunday, delighted with the draw for next year's finals which gave them the best possible start to their quest for a record fourth triumph.

The Italian Sunday newspaper La Gazzetta Sportiva ran a front page banner headline saying "Italians 3 gol" (Italy three goals) to celebrate a draw which put them in the weakest of the six four-nation first round groups.

There was widespread praise for the lucky hands of film star

Sophia Loren, composer of the official World Cup Song Giorgio Moroder and Opera singer Luciano Pavarotti who drew three modest opponents for Italy in the United States, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The host nation will play all their first round matches in Rome and some foreign cities, staying in the capital until the semifinal stage of the competition.

Italian trainer Azeglio Vicini was guarded about his team's chances but the smile on his face betrayed immense satisfaction. "I'm glad we're not in a difficult group," he said. "It could

have been much worse."

If fate seemed less kind to the tournament when the nations with the two worst records of hooliganism, England and the Netherlands, were drawn together in group F, there was surprisingly little official concern.

The two countries will meet on June 16 in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari in potentially the most explosive match of the tournament until the semifinal stage of the competition.

The trouble was later blamed largely on West German youths who attacked the notorious En-

fated clash at the European championship in Dusseldorf, West Germany, last year.

Despite a massive turnout of riot police and strict segregation of rival supporters, there were almost 500 arrests and large-scale damage to the city centre in outbreaks of violence before the match.

The trouble was later blamed largely on West German youths who attacked the notorious En-

glish fans.

World Cup organisers kept a low profile on the problem. "It is not the end of the world. It is one of 52 matches," International Football Federation (FIFA) spokesman Guido Tognoni said.

Privately, officials expressed the view that even if they would have preferred the English and Dutch not to meet, a match on Sardinia offered the best chance of containing trouble.

The Dutch will be based in Palermo, Sicily, and their fans can travel to the game only by air or sea, giving police a better chance of controlling their movements in Sardinia.

The island authorities also said they were happy to receive the English and Dutch, along with Ireland and Egypt, and did not anticipate problems.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989

SPORTS IN BRIEF

LUTON AGREE MILLION-POUND DEAL FOR WEGELE:

The transfer of Luton striker Roy Wegerle to fellow English first division club Queens Park Rangers for £1 million (\$1.6 million) is expected to be completed on Monday. Luton manager Ray Harford said Saturday he was sorry to see the South African-born player go out "a million pounds is a lot of money and we decided to take it."

BRELAND STOPS OZAKI: Mark Breland of the United States retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) welter-weight title Sunday by stopping Japanese challenger Fujio Ozaki in the fourth round of their scheduled 12-round fight. Panamanian referee Julio Cesar Alvarado stopped the fight 35 seconds into the round after a doctor examined a copiously bleeding cut which opened up above Ozaki's right eye in the third round. It was the champion's third defence of the title he wrested from South Korean Lee Seung-Soo last February.

PASSPORT MISSING

I. Narinder Singh from India have lost passport No. 470569 issued 10 April 1988.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TAKE THE SURE-TRICK LINE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A 9 5 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K J
♦ Q 8 4 2

WEST
♦ 8 4
♥ K Q 10 3
♦ 9 7 6 2
♦ K 9 5
♦ 10 7 6 3

SOUTH
♦ K Q J 10 6 2
♦ J 5
♦ A Q 10
♦ A J

The bidding:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Had Shakespeare been a bridge aficionado, he might have written about the ages of a player. At first the infant, trying to master the intricacies of the finesse. Then the lover, beamng from ear to ear as half of his tenace positions produces an extra trick. And then the expert, wriggle like an eel to try to avoid having to take a finesse. And so each one plays his part.

South had a classic jump shift—a self-sufficient suit of his own and some support for partner's suit into the bargain. When North raised, it took only Blackwood to determine that a dearth of kings precluded a grand slam.

West led the king of hearts and we know many declarers who would go down in a trice. They would win the ace, draw trumps and take the club finesse, an even-money proposition. Unfortunately, on this deal their luck would be out and the contract would fall by a trick.

The seasoned player has no problem with this type of hand. He knows the club finesse is an illusion—there is a line available which guarantees the slam.

After winning the ace of hearts the veteran, too, draws trumps in two rounds. Next, he takes three rounds of diamonds, discarding a heart from dummy. With the soundwork laid, declarer exits with the jack of hearts.

When West wins the trick, there is a variety of losing actions available. A red-suit return allows declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the jack of clubs from hand; a club is into South's tenace. Either way, declarer avoids losing a club-trick.

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Gorbachev willing to dilute party monopoly

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said the Communist Party would resist attempts to diminish its authority but held out the possibility that constitutional guarantees of its leading role in society could be scrapped.

Calling the party the guarantor of its perestroika reform programme, Gorbachev told the policy-making central committee Saturday that demands for an immediate end to the party's legally-enforced monopoly on power were premature.

And he said the country's economic woes, while grave, were being exploited for political gain.

"The Central Committee will resolutely fight attempts to downgrade the importance of the party and to undermine its authority with working people," Gorbachev said, in remarks carried by the official TASS news agency.

In the framework of this process, any article (of the constitution) can be the subject of modification or be excluded. This fully refers as well to Article 6," Gorbachev said.

Article 6 of the 1977 constitution guaranteed the 20-million-member party the "leading and guiding" role in Soviet public life. It has become a matter of fierce debate as disenchantment with the party's grip on power grows.

and fast-developing reform movements sweep through the Soviet allies in East Europe.

Hungary has dropped the name "Communist" from the party's name and is preparing for multi-party elections. Poland has installed a non-communist prime minister, Czechoslovakia was to announce a non-communist-dominated government Sunday and East Germany recently repealed the communists' monopoly on power.

On Thursday, Lithuania became the first of the 15 constituent Soviet republics to drop a constitutional guarantee of communist supremacy. Lawmakers in another Baltic republic, Estonia, will consider establishing a multi-party system Dec. 15.

Human rights activist Andrei Sakharov and several other members of the Congress of People's Deputies parliament have proliferated in the more tolerant climate introduced by Gorbachev.

Baltic elections

Candidates nominated by grassroots people's fronts organisations are widely expected Sunday to beat many communists in nationwide elections to fill municipal councils held in Estonia and Latvia.

In Estonia, more than 9,000 candidates are vying to fill 4,200 seats in city and rural councils throughout the Soviet Union's least populous republic with 1.6 million inhabitants.

Polls show the most popular candidates are environmentalists, or Greens, with ethnic Estonians favouring the People's Front and

the Russians favouring workers' associations with close links to communists.

"But if both ethnic and non-ethnic Estonians are considered, our opinion polls indicate 50 per cent support for the Greens — by far the best support. The communists would get under 10 per cent," said Julian Kivirahk, from Estonia's department of public opinion and market research.

In Latvia, Imanis Daudis, a secretary of the top government executive body, the praesidium, called Sunday's vote "the first election conducted in the situation of real political pluralism."

Only 34 per cent of the candidates in the republic of more than 2.5 million people are members of the Communist Party, while 32 per cent are members of the People's Front.

In March elections for the new Soviet parliament, People's Front candidates trounced party-backed candidates in races across all three Baltic states.

Of the other Latvian candidates, 18 per cent belong to the Agricultural Union, which seeks independence and private ownership of land, and 1.8 per cent to Interfront, an organisation protecting the rights of ethnic Russians and other immigrants.

Daudis said all the groups can be virtually described as fledgling political parties.

Activists reject de Klerk reforms

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A major conference of South African anti-apartheid groups has rejected President F.W. de Klerk's reform programme and vowed to continue the struggle against racial segregation.

A declaration issued at the end of the first day of the conference said blacks were ready to negotiate with the white government, but only when it showed it was serious.

Nearly 5,000 delegates from all over the country met to discuss de Klerk's moves to reform apartheid and offer to negotiate some form of power-sharing arrangement with the voteless black majority.

"De Klerk has done nothing which convinces us that he is genuine. There are no actions to back up his vague promises," Saturday's declaration said.

It added that de Klerk would have to create the necessary conditions before negotiations could begin. It was not specific about what the conditions were, but elsewhere the statement said apartheid would have to be completely dismantled.

The banned nationalist movement, the African National Congress, has long counted the abolition of the land, group areas and population registration acts — cornerstones of South Africa's racial segregation — among preconditions for negotiations.

"We cannot and will not wait until de Klerk is ready. Our struggle to dismantle apartheid and exploitation and to build a democratic future will go on," the declaration said.

The statement dismissed reforms, including the release of political prisoners and relaxation of restrictions on public protest, undertaken by the president since he came to power following segregated elections in September.

"The strategic objective of the regime remains that of reshaping apartheid to make it palatable to the South African people and the international community. More importantly, the clear intention is to protect the privileges of the white minority," it said.

"We will continue to resist apartheid, even defy and dismantle it, whatever the cost. We will build the maximum unity among all anti-apartheid forces. We will continue to demand that the international community intensify its efforts to isolate the de Klerk government."

The conference, organised by trade unions, church and other organisations who make up the mass democratic movement, involves a broad range of anti-apartheid groups, from youth and student congresses to tribal home-based leaders.

Some of the groups are restricted under South Africa's three-year-old state of emergency regulations, and their representatives defied orders to speak to the meeting, held in a sports hall at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University.

Hunt launched for Manila coup leaders

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippine military has launched a big manhunt for missing army coup leaders who apparently escaped when their men surrendered, a military spokesman said Sunday.

Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff General Renato de Villa told reporters the military was asking President Corazon Aquino to offer cash rewards for the turning in of rebel leaders who staged the sixth and most serious attempt to topple her.

Armed forces spokesman Oscar Florendo said about 1,800 rebel officers and men have surrendered since the coup was finally snuffed out in Manila last Thursday.

Still on the loose are several of the top men involved in the six-day coup, including cashiered Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the last coup attempt against Aquino in August 1987.

The officers are members of the "Reform the Armed Forces

Movement" (RAM), which accused Aquino of mismanaging the country, tolerating corruption among her relatives, appointing incompetent ministers and being soft on a 20-year communist insurrection.

Aquino, meanwhile, vowed never to "let evil triumph" against democracy.

Rebel soldiers Saturday surrendered their last stronghold at an air base at Clark City.

Air Force Chief Major-General Jose de Leon said the rebel leader at the Macau air base, Brigadier General Jose Comendador, surrendered late Saturday to regional commander Brig. Gen. Renato Palma and was under investigation.

On Sunday, Aquino travelled by helicopter to Batangas city, 90 kilometres south of Manila, for the funeral of Major Daniel Atienza. Atienza's F-5 jet was shot down Dec. 1 during an air raid on rebel positions at the Sangley Point air-naval base, southwest of the capital.

De Villa said other senior officers being hunted included Commodore Domingo Calajate, former chief of the military logistics command, Brig.-Gen. Edgardo Abenina, former chief of the constabulary command in the western Visayas Islands, and Navy Captain Felix Turigan.

Speaking at a gymnasium, Aquino said: "I promise you that I will continue to serve the Filipino people, and I will offer every moment of my life, and I shall never let evil triumph."

About 200 presidential guards surrounded the gymnasium and snipers were stationed on the roofs of nearby buildings.

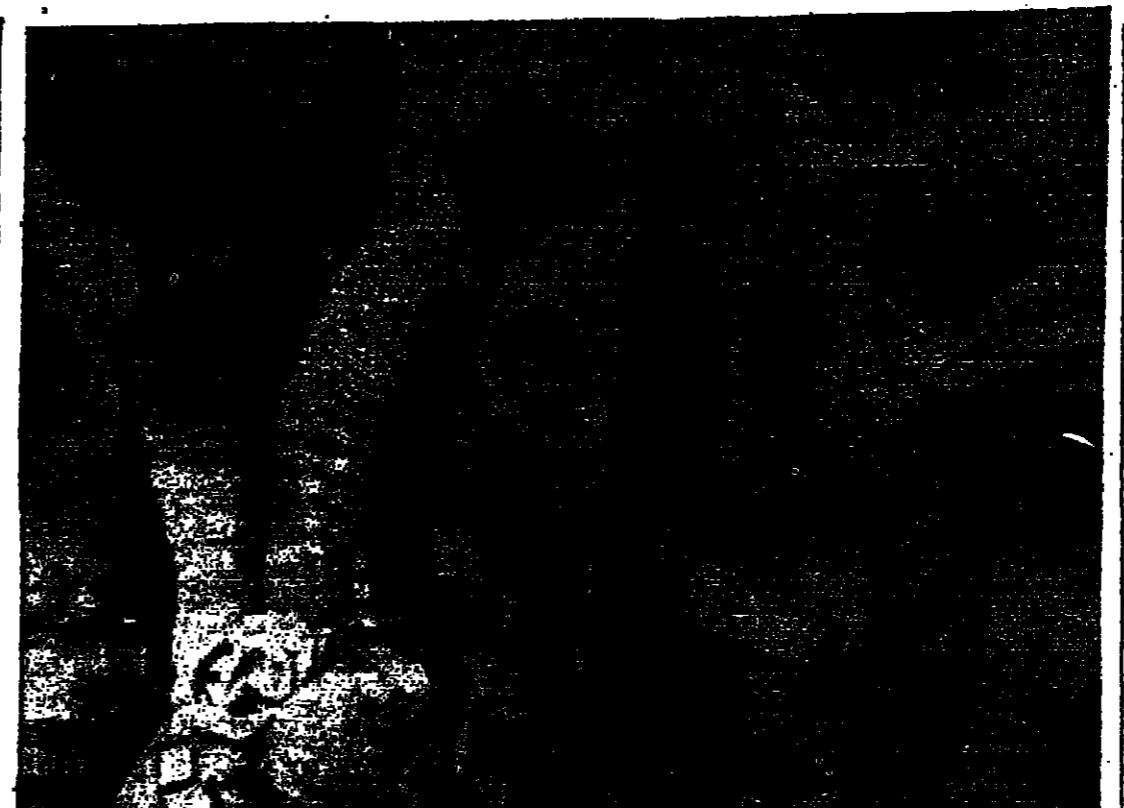
Aquino told reporters later that about 3,000 of the 160,000-member armed forces had joined the mutiny.

"Only two per cent of the armed forces were against us but still we have to make sure that those who are guilty will be meted out the full penalties," Aquino said.

He said press reports that forced repatriation was to get under way Sunday were incorrect but added that it would happen sooner rather than later.

Workers in the camps, where some 57,000 boat people are held, say morale is deteriorating daily as people hear reports of plans to return most of them forcibly to the land they risked death to leave.

"Every day at 2 p.m. in Whitehead they all demonstrate, waving clenched fists in the air and showing banners. The banners



Standing in line... Vietnamese boat people queue presently in the colony awaiting relocation overseas with all their belongings for relocation to a Hong of repatriation Hong housing centre. Over 50,000 Vietnamese are

Boat people brawl amid rising tension, gloom

HONG KONG, (R) — A 25-year-old man was beaten to death with iron bars Sunday morning as tension rose in Hong Kong's crowded Vietnamese boat people camp on fears of an imminent start to forced repatriation.

Police said the man was killed and three youths were injured as two gangs battled with iron bars Sunday morning at Whitehead Camp in Hong Kong's New Territories.

A senior Western diplomat who follows refugee affairs said Britain and Hong Kong were still discussing arrangements for what he called the orderly return of people whose appeals for refugee status have been rejected by the government here.

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"Every day at 2 p.m. in Whitehead they all demonstrate, waving clenched fists in the air and showing banners. The banners

say things like 'better dead than red' and 'freedom, where are you?'" a camp worker said.

Other slogans included "Hong Kong — our today is your tomorrow," a reference to 1997, when China is due to regain sovereignty over the freewheeling capitalist British colony.

Hong Kong is determined to start sending back those boat people that have failed to prove they are genuine refugees under United Nations criteria so as to try and avert another influx when weather conditions in the South China Sea improve.

This year has seen 34,000 boat

people arrive, the bulk of them in the period between February and August.

Hong Kong has tried various methods of deterring the boat people over the years, including closed camps — where they remained refugee status but were kept in prison-like conditions, and a tough screening policy introduced in June last year.

Of the 57,000 here, 13,000 are considered genuine refugees because they arrived before screening was introduced last year. The remaining 44,000 are considered illegal immigrants, to be held pending repatriation unless they can prove a genuine fear of persecution.

So far some 6,000 have been screened and only 400 have been granted refugee status, allowed to stay while efforts are made to arrange resettlement in a third country.

Diplomatic sources said that

when forced repatriation — now referred to as "mandatory return" by British and Hong Kong officials in agreement with Hanoi's wish to be accused of involvement in human rights violations — started it would be with a small group, flown back to Hanoi aboard a chartered aircraft.

Hong Kong government officials are expected to keep the date and time of the departure a secret, and are maintaining a strict news blackout on the forced repatriation.

"The last thing they want is the sight of people being dragged protesting aboard a plane. Hanoi's cooperation would evaporate if that happened," said a diplomat.

The first group is expected to come from the 51 boat people, all screened out, who have been held at a special high security prison called Phoenix House, where aid workers say morale is shattered by word that they are to be sent back.

Britain is keen to see the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) involved in monitoring the treatment of those returned.

The UNHCR has rejected any suggestion that it play a part, and Vietnam has promised refugees will not be persecuted.

"The problem is there are so many rumours flying round, both in and out of the camps, that the wretched people inside are now prepared to believe anything," said a diplomat.

Salvador president offers negotiations with rebels

ly those affecting the civilian population," he told a news conference.

Cristiani's concessions appeared to be a victory for the rebels who launched a major offensive last month, has offered negotiations with the rebels if they would agree to stop making attacks affecting civilians.

Softenig his previous stance that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) must lay down its arms for serious talks to take place, Cristiani said Saturday he was not demanding that the rebels stop attacking military targets.

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Rent one for charity.

In recent years, various charities around the United States have been organising "bachelor bids" or "rent-a-gent" parties as part of their fund-raising efforts.

They generally target single professional women who can afford to bid for a date with one of a group of carefully screened bachelors. Those who can't afford to bid or prefer not to can still go to the party and watch the action for a modest admission fee.

The bidding usually starts at about \$50. Most bachelors "sell"

for between \$200 and \$600 but some have fetched \$1,500 for the charities. The bids, actually donations, are tax-deductible.

"It's a fun event, and in a lot of areas it works very well," said Phil Bonfiglio, national director of special events for the American Cancer Society.

The women receive a programme providing a brief description of the bachelors and the date package being offered. The date is usually drinks, dinner and a show.

Bonfiglio said that although the Cooley's Anemia auction said they participated for fun, as well as for the remote possibility of

meeting someone.

"It's a kick. I just think it's fun," said one woman, who identified herself only as Dale.

Another woman had a more traditional point of view. "I don't pay for any man to take me out," said Susan Rogers. "I just came to watch."

The charities try to recruit established or prominent men to participate. "They are usually pretty stable people in the community — who have a lot to lose if they misbehave," said Faetz.

In order to safeguard against a potential bidding war, the charities often limit the number of bidders in the audience.

"If no one bids on them, they've lost them," Faetz said of the bachelors, adding that, fortunately, the plants don't have to jump in very often.

Interestingly, none of the

foundations holds auctions of women because the perception is that the public would not approve.

"I think people want to stay away from that because of the nature of the time," said Faetz.

Bonfiglio added, "I don't know if the perception of bachelor auctions is even kosher (appropriate) — but auctioning women off definitely doesn't seem kosher".

According to Helene Daily Attanasio, a volunteer for Cooley's Anemia, bachelor auctions are eminently appropriate.

"Women have been exploited for years. It's about time men were exploited," she said.

It may be clear why the